

Foreign Trade of East Germany

Total turnover of trade of East Germany in 1956 had tripled as compared with 1950, with exports reaching three and one-half times the level achieved in 1950. During this period trade with the Sino-Soviet Bloc has been about three-quarters of total East German trade; the USSR alone accounts for something over 40 percent of the total.

In 1954 East Germany achieved a favorable balance in its total trade; in this year the balance of trade with the USSR showed a sizeable export surplus. Through 1956 East Germany continued to export more than it imported on commodity account; there are indications, however, that at least in its trade with the USSR this trend may have been reversed in 1957.

The major problems facing East German export industries are chronic shortages of raw materials and of foreign exchange. Soviet aid to East Germany, which has been greater than that given to any other Satellite, has probably been meant to alleviate these conditions. At the same time, it is interesting to note that East Germany has taken on an increasingly important role as creditor to the other Satellites; agreements signed during 1956 and 1957 have called for the extension of commodity credits valued at a minimum of \$235 million.

Foreign Trade of Soviet Zone of Germany

	1950	1954	1955	1956	1957
<u>Imports (million \$)</u>	469.7	1,095.9	1,172.8	1,333.7	
Major Bloc Partners in % of Total Imports					
USSR		41.7	36.0	41.8	
Czechoslovakia		7.0	6.0	7.9	
China		6.1	7.4	6.4	
Poland		10.2	9.8	7.9	
Hungary		4.4	5.3	2.9	
<u>Exports (million \$)</u>	406.0	1,280.1	1,278.1	1,407.2	
Major Bloc Partners in % of Total Exports					
USSR		45.8	40.3	40.5	
Czechoslovakia		5.7	7.3	7.8	
China		7.6	7.6	6.7	
Poland		10.5	9.7	9.9	
Hungary		3.7	3.6	3.4	
<u>Turnover (million \$)</u>	875.7	2,376.0	2,450.9	2,741.0	3,424.8
Bloc in %	72	76	72	73	73
Major Partners in % of Total Turnover					
USSR		43.9	38.3	41.1	44.5*
Czechoslovakia		6.3	6.7	7.8	
China		6.9	7.5	6.6	
Poland		10.3	9.7	8.9	
Hungary		4.0	4.4	3.2	
West in %	28	24	28	27	27
Underdeveloped Areas in % of Total Turnover		1	3	3	

* Preliminary